

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please insert the following heading as a new paragraph before the paragraph starting at page 1, line 1:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Please insert the following heading as a new paragraph before the paragraph starting at page 3, line 8:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 31 with the following rewritten paragraph:

This provides a simple ~~an~~ and compact arrangement which is easy to manufacture with the interengagement fitting and pair of wedged shaped cross section projections advantageously having ~~a~~ an interrelated dual functionality.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 35 with the following rewritten paragraph:

This method provides a simple and convenient way to install a spring mounting support element for multiple springs (which may overall have a considerable length) within a window jamb channel via a relatively small access opening provided in the window jamb channel. The method also ~~ensuring~~ ensures that the mounting

elements are securely interlocked together to provide a stable and robust support for the springs.

Please insert the following heading as a new paragraph before the paragraph starting at page 6, line 12:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 14 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figures 10a and 10b are perspective views, from the rear and front respectively, of the modular spring mounting arrangement in accordance with a ~~forth~~ fourth embodiment of the invention.

Please insert the following heading as a new paragraph before the paragraph starting at page 7, line 19:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Please replace the two paragraphs beginning at page 11, line 9 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Specifically the upper 30c and middle 30b spring support module elements include respectively a pair 34 of wedged shaped projections 34a, 34b which project and extend normally from the rear surface 33 of the main body 32 of the spring support module elements 30a, 30b. The wedge shaped projections 34 are laterally

spaced towards respective sides of the spring support module element 30c, 30b at the bottom of the elements 30b, 30c. The wedge shaped projections 34 have a generally triangular cross section and are oppositely directed such that they point inwardly towards each other with a lateral spacing D between an apex edge 35 of the respective projections 34. The lower 30a and middle 30b spring support module elements include, respectively, an interengagement fitting arrangement comprising a dovetail cross section projection 36 at the top and centre of the spring support module elements 30a, 30b. This dovetail projection 36 includes a narrowed neck portion 38 which has a width W1 corresponding to the lateral spacing D between the wedge shaped projections 34. The dovetail projection 36 further includes outwardly divergent angled side walls 37 which correspond to the faces of the wedge projections 34 with a distal end of the dovetail projection 36 having a width W2 greater than the lateral spacing D between the wedge shaped projections 34. The dovetail projection 36 thereby defines a pair of parallel grooves extending normally to the spring support module 30a, 30b, 30c. The respective pair of wedge shaped projections 34 and dovetail projections 36 are thereby arranged such that by aligning the narrowed neck portion ~~34~~ 38 between the wedge shaped projections 34 and laterally sliding the two together (in a direction normal to the spring support elements 30a, 30b, 30c and along the wedge shaped projections)

the dovetail projection 36 can be engaged between the wedge shaped projection 34. Specifically the narrowed neck portion 38, and grooves, are engaged between the apex edges 35 of the wedge shaped projection 34 with the outwardly divergent angled side walls 37 of the dovetail projection 36 abutting upper surfaces of the wedge shaped projections 34. The lower angled surfaces of the wedge shaped projections 34 abut and are supported upon lower shoulders 39 of the dovetail projections 36. Figures 2 and 3 show the spring support module elements 30a, 30b, 30b respectively engaged with the dovetail projections 36 fitted and securely engaged between the respective wedge shaped projections 34.

The wedge shaped projections 34 and dovetail projections 36 also have a combined dual functionality. In addition to interlocking the spring support modules 30a, 30b, 30c together as described above, the wedge shaped projections 34 and dovetail projections 36 also additionally provide a support means for supporting the respective coiled ribbon springs 22 associated with the upper and middle spring mounting element 30b, 30c. As shown in figure 2, the dovetail projections 36 and wedge shaped projections ~~36~~ 34 when fitted together cooperatively define an upper arcuate support surface 42 upon which the outer circumferential surface of the coiled ribbon spring 22 rests and is supported. This can be contrasted with the lower spring 22

which is supported within the lower spring support mounting element 30a by a dedicated spring support 44.

Please replace the paragraphs beginning at page 13, line 21 with the following rewritten paragraphs:

Whilst in this embodiment a combined fixing screw and mounting peg 46 are used to secure and locate the spring support mounting 24 in the channel, it will be appreciated that other arrangements can be used. In particular the mounting arrangements described in US 6,393, 661, and US 6,412, 144 or ~~pending~~ published UK patent application number ~~0207417.7~~ 2380758 could be used.

The counterbalance assembly 16 and modular spring support mounting 24 is installed and fitted into the window jamb channel 9 via the access opening 40. First the sash shoe 28 is inserted through the access opening 40 and slid vertically downward in the channel 9 leaving the access opening 40 clear. The lower spring mounting support element 30a and associated spring 26 fitted therein is then similarly inserted through the access opening 40 and the lower spring mounting support element 30a and shoe 28 are connected and are slid vertically downward in the channel 9 such that the dovetail projection 36 of the lower spring mounting support element 30a is visible towards the lower end of the access opening 40. The bottom of the middle spring mounting

support element 30b, and the wedge shaped projections 34 of the middle spring mounting support element 30b are then vertically and laterally aligned with the top of the lower spring mounting support element 30a, and the dovetail projection 36 thereof, through the access opening 40 and with the channel 9. The middle spring mounting support element 30b is then laterally (in a direction normal to the spring support elements 30a, 30b, 30c and along the wedge shaped projections) slid into the channel section 9, through the access opening 40, and so as to slidably engage the dovetail projection 36 between the wedge shaped projections 34. The middle spring mounting support element 30b is thereby installed within the channel 9 and interlocked on top of, and to, the lower spring mounting support element 30a. The upper spring mounting support element 30c can then be installed and interlocked in a similar manner, as illustrated in figures 6a and 6b, with it being aligned with the top of the middle spring mounting support element 30b and dovetail projection and laterally slid (as shown by arrow X) into the channel 9 and interlocking engagement with the middle spring mounting support element 30b and spring support mounting 24. The entire assembled and interlocking spring support mounting 24 is then slid along the channel 9 until the mounting peg 46 engages the mounting aperture 48 in the rear channel wall 11 as shown in figure 6b. The fastener (not shown) is then fitted through the ~~base~~ boss 50

to secure the spring support mounting 24 in place in the channel 9.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 24 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Overall, in this alternative embodiment, the wedge shaped projections 134 are engaged outwardly (by the shoulder supports 160), whereas in the first embodiment the wedge shaped projections 34 are engaged inwardly (by the interengagement fitting (dovetail projections 36)).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 29 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A particular further advantage of this second embodiment, with the outwardly engaging ~~the wedge shaped~~ wedge shaped projections, is that when assembled, an opening 170 between the wedge shaped projections 134 is provided such that the outer circumferential surfaces of the springs 22 mounted upon the projections 134 within the support elements 130a, 130b, 130c can in use contact each other through this gap 170 when they rapidly recoil. Such an arrangement, and specifically arranging for contact between the springs 22 under rapid recoil is described in our pending published UK application GB 2369644, and provides a

means to slow the recoil of the springs 22 under rapid movement in order to prevent damage.

Please replace the two paragraphs beginning at page 17, line 19 with the following rewritten paragraph:

As shown in figures 9a and 9b the spring mounting elements 230a, 230b, 230c of the spring support mounting 224 of the third embodiment additionally each include generally planar rear wall plates 290a, 290b, 290c. The rear wall plates 290a, 290b, 290c clip onto the spring mounting elements 230a, 230b, 230c via suitable clips or other suitable snap fit attachments (not shown). The rear wall plates 290a, 290b, 290c abut and engage against the respective dovetail protections 236, wedge shaped projections 234, and spring support 244. The clips securely attach the rear wall plates 290a, 290b, 290c to the spring mounting elements 230a, 230b, 230c. The clips may in particular for example comprise pins which project from the rear wall plates and are engaged within corresponding sockets defined within the respective dovetail protections 236, wedge shaped projections 234, and spring support 244 of the spring support mounting elements 230a, b, c. The rear wall plates 290a, 290b also include dovetail tabs 294a, 294b which may project slightly beyond the plane of the rear wall plates 290a, 290b. The dovetail tabs 294a, 294b correspond to the dovetail projections 236 of the spring

support mounting elements 230a, 230b, 230c such that the dovetail tabs ~~292a, 292b~~ 294a, 294b similarly engage between the wedge shaped projections 234 of the spring support mounting elements 230a, 230b, 230c to further secure the rear wall plates 290a, 290b, 290c to the spring support mounting elements 230a, 230b, 230c. The dovetail tabs ~~292a, 292b~~ 294a, 294b are also engaged within dovetail slots ~~294a, 294a~~ of the other rear wall plates 290b, 290c to secure the rear wall plates 290a, 290b, 290c together. The lower rear wall plate 290a includes a corresponding aperture ~~292a~~ which fits over the mounting peg 246, whilst the middle rear wall plate 290b includes a similar aperture ~~292b~~ corresponding to the ~~base~~ boss 250.

The rear wall plates 290a, 290b, 290c when fitted to the spring mounting elements 230a, 230b, 230c are disposed generally parallel to and spaced apart from the main body portions 232 of the spring support mounting 224. The rear wall plates 290a, 290b, 290c together define a rear wall 290 of the spring support mounting 224. When the spring support mounting 224 is installed within the channel 9 the rear wall portions 290a, 290b, 290c are adjacent to, and may abut against, ~~the rear abut against~~ the rear wall 11 of the channel.